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EMORY UNIVERSITY
EMORY UNIVERSITY, GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

August 9, 1958

Dear Jim,

I had no great difficulty in detecting your fine hand in the generous and flattering offer to give the lectures at Ole Miss in the fall term. I plan to accept and I would appreciate it if you would pass that word on to Dougherty since I will hold up writing him until one or two small points can be cleared up a bit. There are several minor difficulties although none that shouldn't work out in one way or another. It so happens that the fall quarter is a heavy one for me with three courses; two are graduate offerings and I can take care of them with a little advanced planning; the third is undergraduate and its entirely against the local ground rules to give cuts in it. If, as Dougherty proposes, the Ole Miss lectures are scheduled for the week following the S. H. A. meet in Nashville, a real problem develops in taking care of this course for the better part of two weeks. It's specialized enough so that no one else in the department stands ready to take it over. But I think I can come up with something, though it may well involve proposing a different week for the Mississippi visit. If this won't work, then I'll try to think of something else.

At the moment Marcia is engaged in accepting tentatively a part-time teaching job at Morehouse College, one of the Atlanta University aggregation. Whether this works out will determine whether she can go to the S. H. A. meeting and/or the Mississippi affair. If she takes the job, she almost certainly couldn't make both. Possibly neither.

As for topics, ~~frankly~~ frankly, I am bored to death with the subject of war news, war correspondents, and all matters pertaining thereto--and have been since long before the bally project was completed. So, if you don't mind, I'll probably suggest some other things that I have been working on more recently, though I'll try to keep in mind the necessity of having topics that would lend themselves fairly well to general discussion. I would like to do one on the trials and tribulations of research but I had rather make that one of the longer sessions rather than the shorter one, for the history society. It ought to provide plenty of room for post mortems and what have you. I'll write more about these when I've had a little more time to soul-search and stock-take.

Bill certainly came out well, both for the year and for the summer. I heartily wish that I could report that Tim has his feet on equally solid ground, but he still seems to be engaged in the business of deciding whether to grow up. He sailed along smoothly enough for most of last year only to choose the very bad time of the end of the year to take a nose dive, catapulting his average downward into C territory. He's still on amiable enough terms with Harvard generally but the scholarship people, quite rightly, have written him a nasty letter that, I hope and believe, has shaken him up considerably. At the moment he's hell bent on "showing em" next year: I hope and pray that he has had his moment of playing the fool. As you may remember, I have always had a theory that every man makes a fool out of himself sooner or later; and I half adhere to the belief that the sooner the better. Well, we shall see.

It seems needless for me to try to express my appreciation of the opportunity to give your lecture series. And also that I look forward to it . . . immensely.

Yours, Joe